

# UAV TECHNOLOGIES AND COMBAT OPERATIONS

Summary recommendations from the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Technologies and Combat Operations Study (1996) are:

## SUMMARY

- Take the lead role in programs to exploit the near-term UAVs (e.g., Predator and Global Hawk) in Air Force, Joint and National roles.
- Pursue the SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses) mission as an early application of UAVs in an attack role
- Initiate a program, perhaps with DARPA, that leads to the development and deployment of advanced penetrating combat UAVs in the mid- to far-term.
- Increase emphasis on effective techniques for flight management and employment of UAVs.
- Establish UAV experimental capabilities to address crew-vehicle flight management concepts and increase emphasis on human system related topics in development programs.
- Expand work in engines, air vehicle structures, and flight management technologies.
- Supplement avionics and mission systems technology base programs in mission system automation, miniaturization, and sensor aperture areas critical to UAV operations
- Initiate a modular weapons and warhead program specifically oriented to the mission tasks most suited to UAVs.
- Initiate a broad program to address opportunities for dramatically reducing operations and support costs for UAVs.
- Promote command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) architectures that consider UAVs in the context of the overall Joint Forces structure
- Develop systems, concepts, and processes for UAV airspace management and deconfliction.
- Propose and support architectures and procedures that enable routine flight of uninhabited aerial vehicles (UAVs) in controlled airspace
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